

# Spanish Visiting Teacher Program

## School Year 2016-2017



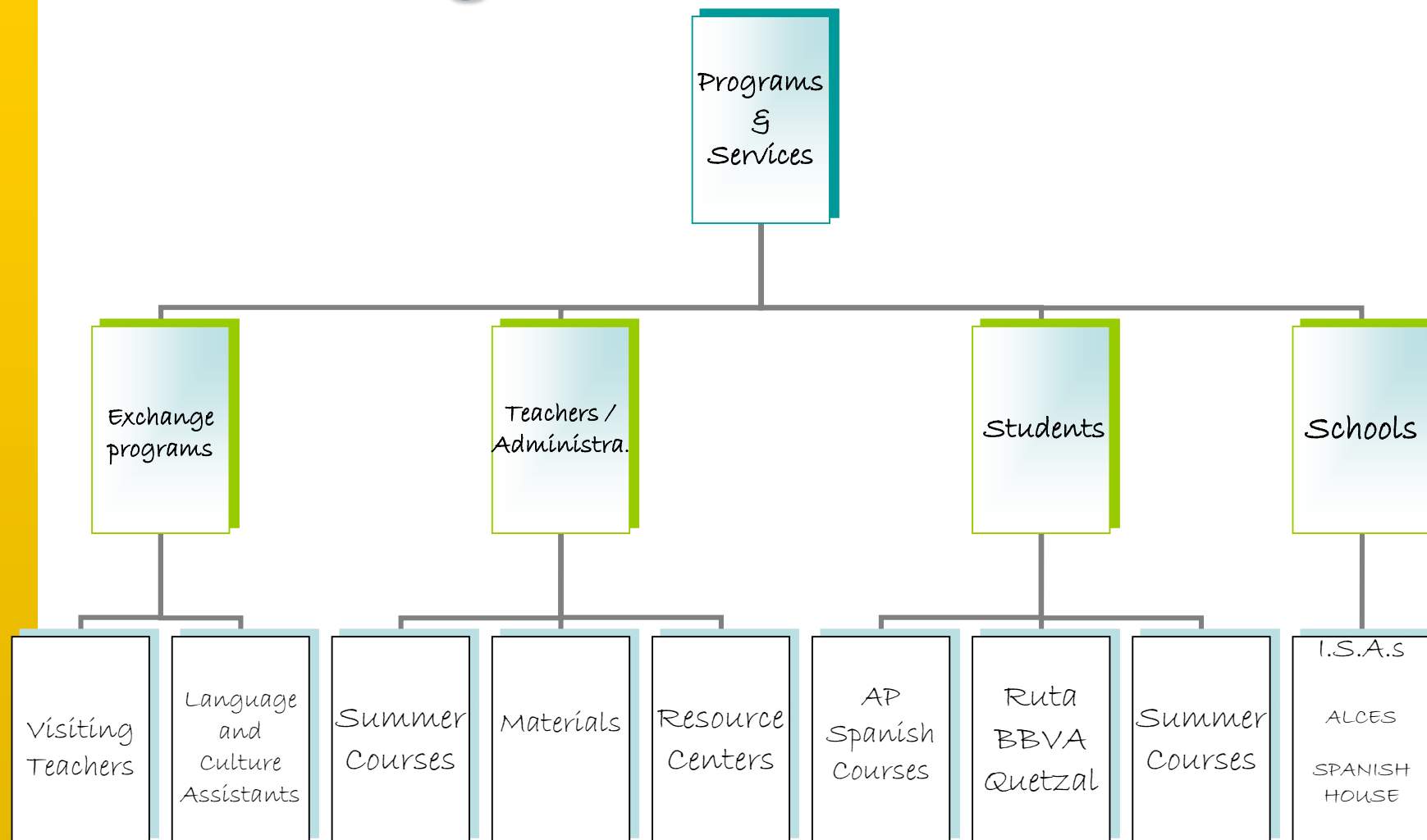
# Spanish Education Offices in USA



<http://www.mecd.gob.es/eeuu/oficinasycentros.html>



# Programs and Services



# Framework

- J1 Visa - Exchange Visitor Program: U.S. Department of State program.
- Memoranda of Understanding signed by Spanish Ministry of Education and Education Authorities of US and Canada.
- Indiana Department of Education and The Ministry of Education of Spain signed a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) in 1999, updated in 2007.
- Framework for educational and cultural exchange programs between the Spanish Ministry of Education and Indiana Schools.
- The program started in New York and California in the 80s.
- **Visiting Teachers Program:** enables IN school districts to hire teachers from Spain to teach in IN schools for a maximum of three years on a J-1 cultural exchange visa. 4th and 5th year extensions are now possible.

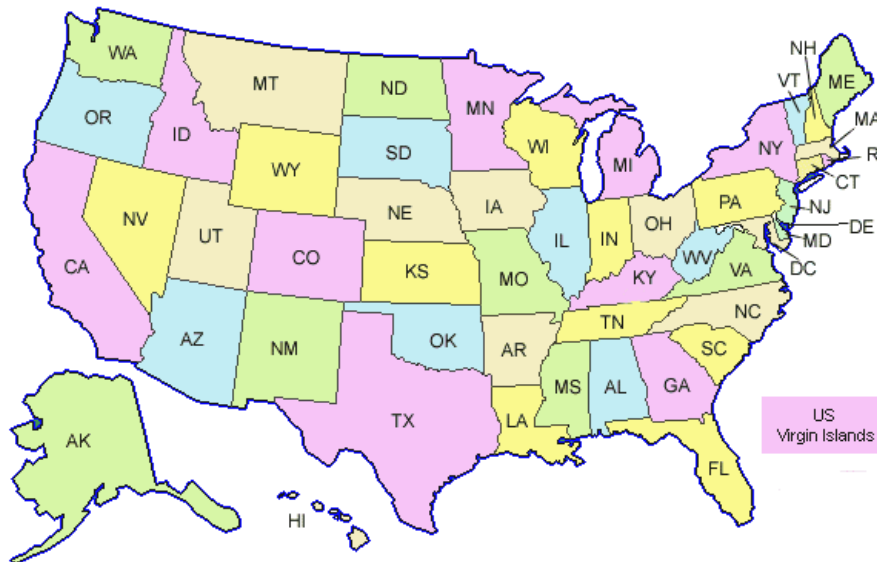


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DE ESPAÑA

CONSEJERÍA DE EDUCACIÓN  
EN ESTADOS UNIDOS  
Y CANADÁ

# School Year 2014 – 2015.

60 American teachers and 2700 teacher aides in Spain



570 Spanish teachers were hired by districts in 33 States

# Some Visiting Teachers Facts

**Nowadays participant teachers: 1542**

**VT in Elementary Schools - 75%**

**VT in Middle and High Schools – 25 %**

**Women - 71%      Men - 29%**

**New teachers: more than 500 every year**

**Participant states: 35 + DC + Alberta (Canada)**

**Schools with Visiting Teachers: more than 600**



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# 1820 PPVV ACTIVOS 2015/16

## 36 estados 1 provincia



# Where are Indiana's Visiting Spanish teachers currently working?

- 5 – Indianapolis Public Schools.
- 4 – Kokomo Schools.
- 3 – Lawrence Township MSD
- 2 – International School of Indiana. Indianapolis
- 2 – Fayette County School Corporation.
- 1 – Fort Wayne Community Schools.
- 1 – Jac-Cen-Del Community Schools.
- 1 – North White School Corporation.
- 1 – Cowan Community Schools.
- 1 – Oldenburg Academy, Oldenburg.
- 1 – New Prairie United School Corporation. New Carlisle.
- 1 – Milan Community Schools

**TOTAL 23**



# Who are the candidates

- ✓ Fully certified early childhood, elementary, middle and high school teachers (*U.S. Department of State requirement*)
- ✓ Proficient in English (*U.S. Department of State requirement*)
- ✓ All have a Bachelor's, most have a Master's (*U.S. Department of State requirement*)
- ✓ They have at least 3 years of experience (*U.S. Department of State requirement*)
- ✓ Background in bilingual and multicultural education.
- ✓ Strongly interested in international education and new pedagogical opportunities.

# Visiting Teacher Licensure

- VT receive from IDOE a Temporary Visiting International Teacher's Permit.
- This license recognizes the High Quality Teaching status of Indiana's visiting teachers.
- It is valid for up to three years.
- It is nonrenewable.

# Screening - I

- All candidates must minimally have at least the equivalent of a B.A.;
- All candidates must have teaching credentials;
- All candidates must have at least three years of teaching experience;
- All candidates must demonstrate suitable proficiency in English;
- All candidates must exhibit qualities of personal and professional flexibility, including a willingness to adapt to an educational environment that might be very different from the one they know in Spain.

# Screening – II

All candidates are rigorously pre-screened by the Spanish Ministry of Education.

All candidates are extensively interviewed in Madrid by CIESC representatives on:

- Technology skills;
- Pedagogical / Differentiation / Assessment skills
- Classroom management potential;
- Cross-cultural skills;
- English language proficiency;
- Flexibility / Cultural and professional adaptability; and
- A desire to learn / Openness to new methodologies

# Ministry of Education's Responsibilities

- Screen candidates, verify credentials and experience
- Provide a pool of candidates that meet the requirements of the school districts.
- Facilitate the interview process.
- Pay for interviewer travel and accommodation expenses
- Support the teachers:
  - University transcripts evaluation
  - Visa
  - Certification / Licensure
  - Settlement and adjustment
  - PD opportunities
  - Ongoing support during their stay in the US

# General Requirements to Host Spanish VTs

Hosts must be willing and able to provide their visiting Spanish teachers with:

- a secure, year-long and fulltime teaching position (must be a teacher of record – NOT an assistant);
- rich cross-cultural learning experiences;
- assistance getting settled in an affordable & safe living situation;
- strong mentoring throughout the academic year;
- flexibility and opportunities to experience American culture outside the classroom setting;
- a position appropriate for an honored guest educator; and
- a salary and benefits commensurate with their education and experience.

# District's Responsibilities

## Salary & Benefits

- Compensation must be commensurate with educational attainment and years of formal classroom teaching experience.
- All VTs minimally have a B.A. and 3 years of experience.
- Compensation must conform to local bargaining unit agreements.

## Insurance Coverage Required for J1 Visa Holders

Employers provide:

- Employee health insurance (min. \$100,000 benefit per accident/illness)

Visiting teachers provide:

- Medical evacuation insurance (min. \$50,000 coverage); and
- Repatriation of remains insurance (min. \$25,000 coverage).

# District Responsibilities

## **Provide a free host family for the first 2 to 3 weeks**

- Optimal: a family in the community with the time, ability and interest to work with the school or district to familiarize the VT with the community, open a bank account, find a place to live, purchase a reliable used vehicle, acquire car and renter's insurance, help identify a good local doctor, help with moving and settling in, etc.
- Avoid placements with administrators/supervisors

## **Assist with setting up house-keeping**

- Scout out apartments and used cars ahead of time, secure donations of furniture and other common household items, etc.
- Ensure that the teacher gets settled in as quickly and as comfortably as possible, preferably before the start of the school year.



# District Responsibilities

## **Provide specialized new teacher orientation:**

- Specific info on attendance, leave, grading, discipline, record-keeping policies
- Info on school culture / extracurricular activities / school calendar
- Additional classroom management training
- Mentoring by a qualified mentor teacher
- Financial explanations (e.g., pay, insurance, other benefits)
- Explanation about teachers' union (if applicable)
- Use of district technology and related policies, training on grading & attendance platforms, voicemail training, etc.
- Intro to district curriculum / teaching materials and tools
- Mechanism for socializing VT into the school culture – cultural mentor, reception w/ staff, school board meeting, community groups
- Things to do / places to visit OUTSIDE of work

# School's Responsibilities

*The visiting teacher program is, first and foremost, a cultural exchange program!*

Public and private schools hosting J-1 foreign exchange teachers are responsible for:

- creating a holistic cultural learning program for their visiting teachers;
- contemplating the overall experience that these teachers will take back to their home country; and
- ensuring that their visiting teachers participate in and report on their participation in the cross-cultural exchange activities now required by the U.S. Department of State.

# Teacher's Responsibilities

Pay for their travel expenses to and from Spain.

Pay for their accommodation expenses.

As full-time teachers, they are expected to fulfil the same requirements as the rest of teachers:

- Teach a regular teaching day.
- Elaborate their lesson plans and all other documents required by their Administrators.
- Collaborate actively in their Departments and schools on any initiative.
- Teach and behave with the same rigor and standards.

# Orientation

- Spanish visiting teachers receive orientation in four phases:
  - Pre-departure orientation in Spain (July);
  - Visiting teacher orientation in Indiana
  - New teacher orientation provided by the host school or district;
  - At least one-day fall PD workshop provided by Spanish Resource Center.

# Visiting Teacher Application

Deadline for submission is April 1, 2016.

Be sure to include a copy of your district's salary schedule for teachers for the 2016-2017 school year, if available (use 2015-2016 if not).

Be specific regarding the skills and type of teacher you want. Include information about your school culture, your community and your expectations to help the IDOE interviewer and the Spanish Ministry of Education's Advisor match the best candidate possible to your school or district.

## **Spanish Visiting Teacher Program - Tentative Timeline**

**December:** National call for applicants in Spain

**March.** Pre-screening of candidates by Spanish Ministry of Ed.

**February 19 – April 1:** Districts submit the *Spanish Visiting Teacher Program*

Application to: **Jill Woerner** ([jwoerner@doe.in.gov](mailto:jwoerner@doe.in.gov))

**April 18-22:** IDOE representatives interview VT candidates in Madrid.

**May 1:** Jill Woerner communicates best matches of prospective VTs with requesting districts.

**May 30:** Deadline for districts to put their VTs under contract.

**June - July:** VTs travel to Madrid and interview at U.S. Embassy in Madrid for their J-1visas.

VTs arrange their own travel to Indiana.

**July 29-August 2:** VTs attend pre-service orientation in Indiana.

# Why participate in this program?

- The presence of the teachers fosters knowledge and appreciation of similarities and differences between the two cultures.
- This program provides highly qualified and certified native Spanish-speaking teachers with a rich cultural background.
- This opportunity provides communities with a diverse and culturally-rich atmosphere from which all can learn and partake.
- This experience brings qualified and extraordinary teachers to the education and everyday lives of Hoosier students.

# Questions or Comments?

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